

Statement of

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Administrator

· NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

before the

Subcommittee on Space Science and Applications  
Committee on Science and Technology  
House of Representatives

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

I appreciate this opportunity to discuss with you NASA's planning for the next five years and to provide the background for the briefings this afternoon and tomorrow by each of NASA's program Associate Administrators. The briefings will cover NASA's planning for Space Flight, Space Technology, Space Science and Applications, and Space Tracking and Data Systems programs. Space Station planning is not included because we will be testifying before you on that subject in considerably greater detail in Hearings early next month.

Planning for NASA's programs requires looking ahead 10 to 20 years, and sometimes even further, because the programs consist of pioneering work to explore new frontiers in space science, to apply the space environment for utilitarian purposes, and to develop the new technologies required for conducting those science and applications activities. Each of the program areas on which you will be briefed includes such long-range planning, and it is essential as a basis for establishing the optimum characteristics for projects to be undertaken in the nearer term. However, experience has convinced us that our detailed program planning should concentrate on programs to be initiated chiefly in the next five years. Thus, we are in the habit of referring to our long-range planning as "five-year planning."

In 1976, NASA began its present formal process of developing five-year plans. The first result of this comprehensive effort was the plan for FY 1978 through 1982, and the five-year planning has been conducted each year since then. The annual process begins each spring with the review by senior Headquarters and field installation managers of proposals from NASA's program offices describing their plans for the budget year to be presented to the Congress the following January, and for the next four years. On the basis of that preliminary planning, budget proposals are developed during the summer and submitted to the OMB in September. As modified by further negotiation, this becomes part of the President's budget submitted to the Congress in January. The plan then is completed and documented; and, at the same time, the planning process for the next year begins.

For example, while the report for FY 1984 through 1988 has just been released, we are well into planning for FY 1985 through FY 1989.

This annual planning process is of great value not only for setting forth policy and goals on a continuing basis, but also for providing a measure of present achievement. It also is essential to establish the framework on which program budgets are constructed. The briefings that follow today and tomorrow underscore the current concepts of our program offices for the five-year planning period starting with FY 1985. These will provide the basis for the selection of a program for submission to OMB and the President in September.

At this time, I believe it is worth noting that NASA's five-year plan reflects consultation with the Space Science, Space Applications, and Aeronautics and Space Engineering Boards of the National Academy of Science and the National Academy of Engineering; the NASA Advisory Council and its committees; and other leaders in industry, universities, and non-governmental research associations.

The programs under consideration follow logically those underway or initiated in the budget for FY 1984 approved recently by the Congress and are consistent with the policies stated last year by the Administration on space and on aeronautical research and technology. The Administration's space policy, announced on July 4, 1982, gives high priority to making the Space Transportation System fully operational and cost-effective in providing routine access to space. For the civil space program, it outlines a balanced strategy of research, development, operations, and exploration for science, applications, and technology. It also calls for providing a climate conducive to expanded private sector involvement, continued international cooperative activities where sufficient benefits accrue to the United States, and management of federal civil operational remote sensing systems by the Department of Commerce.

As you know from our testimony in Hearings on the subject in May, we have the issues of commercialization under serious study. Shortly after we began that study, the Administration (on May 16, 1983) established the specific policy to commercialize expendable launch vehicle operations. This is being taken into account in our planning.

The Administration's aeronautical research and technology policy, released in November 1982, reaffirms the Government's role in supporting aeronautical research and technology (R&T) development (both civil and military). The policy also recommends maintenance of the present institutional framework, in which NASA's role is to fund, direct, and conduct aeronautical R&T development programs; to support military aeronautical technology demonstration programs; and, with the Department of Defense, to manage, maintain, and operate aeronautical research,

development, test, and evaluation facilities. This is consistent with NASA's character as a civilian research and development agency.

Last year, to assist us in focusing our plans for the future, we drafted a list of major goals that would provide a common base for the full range of NASA's efforts. They have been discussed with senior managers both at Headquarters and at the NASA field installations and have been modified to reflect the valid comments received. The goals are responsive to the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 and consistent with national policy. They will continue to evolve but currently are expressed as follows:

- o Provide for our people a creative environment and the best of facilities, support services, and management support so they can perform with excellence NASA's research, development, mission, and operational responsibilities
- o Make the Space Transportation System fully operational and cost effective in providing routine access to space.
- o Continue to explore the requirements, operational concepts and technology associated with permanent space facilities.
- o Conduct an effective and productive aeronautics research and technology program which contributes materially to the enduring preeminence of U.S. civil and military aviation
- o Conduct an effective and productive space and Earth sciences program which expands human knowledge of the Earth, its environment, the solar system, and the universe
- o Conduct effective and productive space applications and technology programs which contribute materially toward U.S. leadership and security
- o Expand opportunities for U.S. private sector investment and involvement in civil space and space-related activities
- o Establish NASA as a leader in the development and application of advanced technology and management practices which contribute to significant increases in both Agency and national productivity.

Mr. Chairman, each of the programs you will hear described in these Hearings is linked closely to one or more of these goals.

We believe our current plans and the more specific programs to be presented to the Congress in January will contribute materially to the national goals and objectives espoused in national space and aeronautics policy and to the Nation's strength, security, and vitality.

Thank you.